

Shannon County School District 65-1

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SCSD Mission
To Strengthen the Lakota Identity and
Values of Students and to Assure Their
Overall Well-Being and Academic Success.

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Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC 20554

Petition for Waiver of E-rate Form 471)

Filing Deadline for FY 2014)

On behalf of)

Shannon County School District)

Batesland, South Dakota)

Schools and Libraries Universal Service)

Support Mechanism)

CC Docket No. 02-6

Petition for Waiver of Shannon County School District

The Shannon County School District requests that its late-filed Form 471 application submitted on April 4, 2014 be included in the E-rate filing window as though timely filed. The application number is 992439.

The Shannon County School District is located in a rural, sparsely populated area of South Dakota, and serves 1,425 students in five different school buildings located throughout an area of 2,099 square miles. Each school building has a very high National School Lunch Program percentage and qualifies for a 90% E-rate discount. The District primarily serves a minority population of students who come from financially challenged families.

One of the District's schools is the Rockyford School which is located in the town of Porcupine at the edge of the Badlands. The School is currently connected to the K12 Statewide Digital Dakota Network via copper facilities which provide a maximum bandwidth capability of 20 mbps.

The State of South Dakota has been trying to facilitate the upgrade of each K12 connection to a minimum speed of 50 mbps. In order to upgrade Rockyford School's connection, new fiber facilities of over eight miles in length need to be installed by the local telecommunications company, SDN Communications. The cost for the installation of this circuit is over \$167,000 due to the difficult terrain involved with the project.

Upon learning of this price quote and reviewing its technology budget, the Department of Education concluded that it would not be possible to incur the cost of this installation. The Department of Education uses the BEAR method of discount reimbursement and does not have sufficient funds to pay for the full installation costs of over \$167,000.

This matter arose at the end of the 471 filing window and there was not time to communicate with Shannon County School District before the March 26, 2014 deadline. Upon contacting the District after the E-rate filing deadline and explaining the financial situation, the District reviewed its own budget. The District has concluded that it will allocate the required resources to pay for the non-discounted share of the installation costs.

The state master contract for the circuit allows for billing to be issued either to the State or to the school district. The service provider has agreed to use the discounted billing option. The parties signed a contract on April 4, 2014 contingent on E-rate funding and Shannon County School District filed an E-rate application on the same date.

By granting this waiver and allowing this application to be considered in the window, the District will be able to upgrade the bandwidth for this School from 20 mbps to 50 mbps. In the absence of granting the waiver, the District will have no other choice but to wait until FY 2015 and apply for the circuit installation costs at that time. We hope you will agree that this request for waiver is meritorious and should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Julie Ertz
Superintendent
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April 4, 2014